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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Keeping livestock healthy..... role of PUBLIC STOCKYARDS INSPECTION

Health inspection of livestock at public stockyards is one of the protective services provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prevent the spread of diseases of livestock and to assure the safe and humane handling of animals moving across State lines.

This Federal service is now maintained at 58 public stockyards located at 56 major marketing centers. Over a million head of livestock pass through these yards each week, offering Federal inspectors an opportunity to keep a constant check on the health of a large cross-section of our animal population, at minimum cost.

Public stockyards inspection is administered by the Animal Disease Eradication Division of the Agricultural Research Service. The Federal service cooperates closely with State livestock sanitary authorities in seeing that State requirements relating to movement of livestock are made known to the shipper.

Livestock health inspection is maintained at those stockyards (places where livestock is bought and sold) that have met high Federal requirements for safe and humane handling of animals. Among the requirements are: Adequate facilities to prevent mingling of animals before they are inspected; pens for segregating diseased animals; facilities for cleaning and disinfecting pens, areas, and vehicles

occupied by diseased animals; equipment for dipping, vaccinating, and otherwise treating livestock.

Public stockyard inspectors are veterinarians, assisted by laymen...all highly trained in detection of animals with symptoms of such diseases as foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera, vesicular exanthema, scabies, and other infectious diseases. These inspectors examine all livestock that pass through the stockyards each day and issue certificates for interstate movement of animals found free of disease. The inspectors require that all diseased livestock or livestock exposed to disease be segregated. They then see to it that the affected animals are treated or disposed of, and notify the sanitary livestock official of the State in which shipment of diseased animals originated, as well as the Federal field station in that area. Public stockyard inspectors also supervise the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles, pens, and facilities contaminated by the diseased animals.

Health inspection at public stockyards is designed to assure the prompt movement of healthy livestock, while providing adequate protection against the spread of animal plagues, some of which may be passed on to man. The photographs shown here illustrate some of the varied services and responsibilities of Federal inspection at public stockyards.

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**Office of Information**

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*Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of any of these photographs from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints (8 x 10) at \$1.00 each from the same address.*





N-32727.--Public stockyards are places where trading in animals is carried on. To be eligible for Federal inspection public stockyards must meet high Federal sanitary standards for handling of livestock.



N-32725.--Federal inspector at public stockyards checks livestock waybill for compliance with Federal regulations.



N-32670.--Livestock arriving at public stockyards during daylight hours is inspected at the time of unloading. Federal inspectors--veterinarians, assisted by trained laymen--look carefully for signs or symptoms of any infectious disease.



N-32749.--Those animals that are unloaded and yarded during the night get a health check early in the morning. All new arrivals must pass Federal inspection before they are permitted to mingle with other healthy animals.



N-32662.--Animals with any sign or symptom of a communicable disease are promptly segregated. They are then individually examined, treated, or otherwise handled according to regulations. Here Federal inspectors examine cattle for "scabies", a skin disease caused by a mite.



N-32666.--Public stockyards inspectors are especially on the alert for symptoms of vesicular disease. They are carefully examining the mouth of this suspect. The protective garments must be thoroughly disinfected after handling a diseased animal.





N-32672.--Separate pens like this for reactors to tuberculosis or brucellosis tests are provided at public stockyards. Federal inspectors make sure that movement of affected animals within the yards will not endanger healthy animals.



N-14091.--Federal inspectors at public stockyards supervise blood testing for brucellosis, and certify healthy animals for interstate shipment.



N-33622.--Testing cattle for tuberculosis is also done under the direction of the Federal livestock inspector.



N-32704.--Swine arriving at public stockyards are carefully examined, especially for signs of cholera. Animals that show any suspicious symptoms are immediately segregated.



N-32750.--Swine selected for immunization against cholera are subjected to a temperature check before vaccination is permitted. This weeds out animals with high temperatures that otherwise show no symptoms of disease.

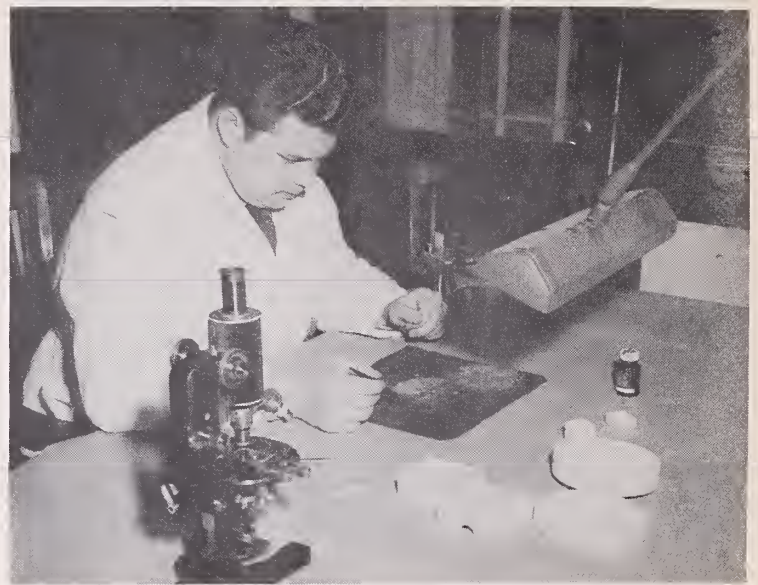


N-32752.--Hogs shipped interstate from public stockyards for purposes other than immediate slaughter are vaccinated against cholera under the supervision of a Federal veterinarian. After vaccination the animals are disinfected and permitted to dry, before they are moved.





N-32759.--Livestock inspectors keep an eye out for scabies of sheep. Animals with any sign of this contagious skin disease are segregated. Specimens of the affected areas are then collected for identification of the mite that causes the disease.



N-32675.--Here Federal livestock inspector examines specimens collected from sheep to identify the parasitic scabies mite.

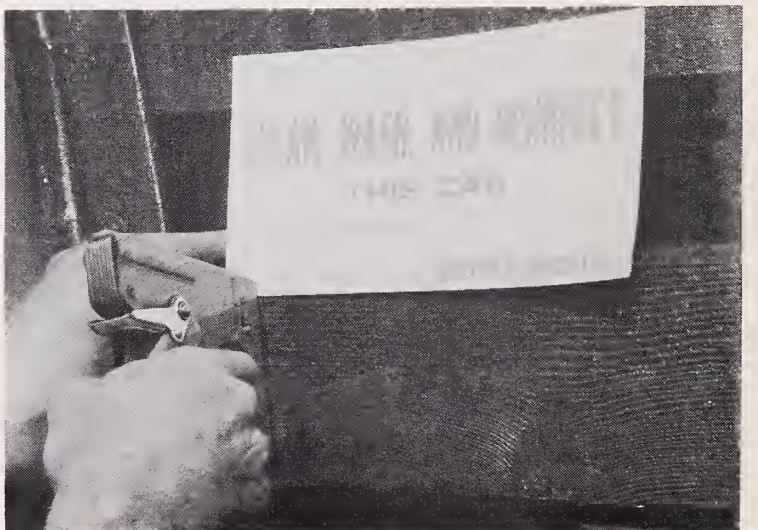


N-32771.--Public stockyards provide facilities for dipping sheep. The Federal livestock inspector supervises the operation and certifies that the animals have been dipped according to regulations required for interstate shipping.



S-4657.--On detecting a diseased animal, the Federal inspector promptly notifies the livestock sanitary authority of the State from which the shipment originated, also the USDA Animal Disease Eradication Division field office in that area. This assures prompt location of source of infection.

N-32693.--This sign is posted on livestock car to be sure that it is thoroughly cleaned, washed, and disinfected. When disinfecting has been completed, the Federal inspector posts notice signed and dated by him certifying to that effect.







N-32715.--Stringent cleaning and disinfecting regulations also apply to any pen, yard, chute, alley, or vehicle used by animals affected with a contagious disease. Livestock inspectors at public stockyards post this sign to alert attendants.



N-32717.--Cleaning and disinfection is done under the supervision of the Federal inspector. The power spray used here thoroughly disinfects pen that had been occupied by diseased animals.



N-32739.--Automatic loading equipment like this is used to clean up pens, yards, and alleys at public stockyards.

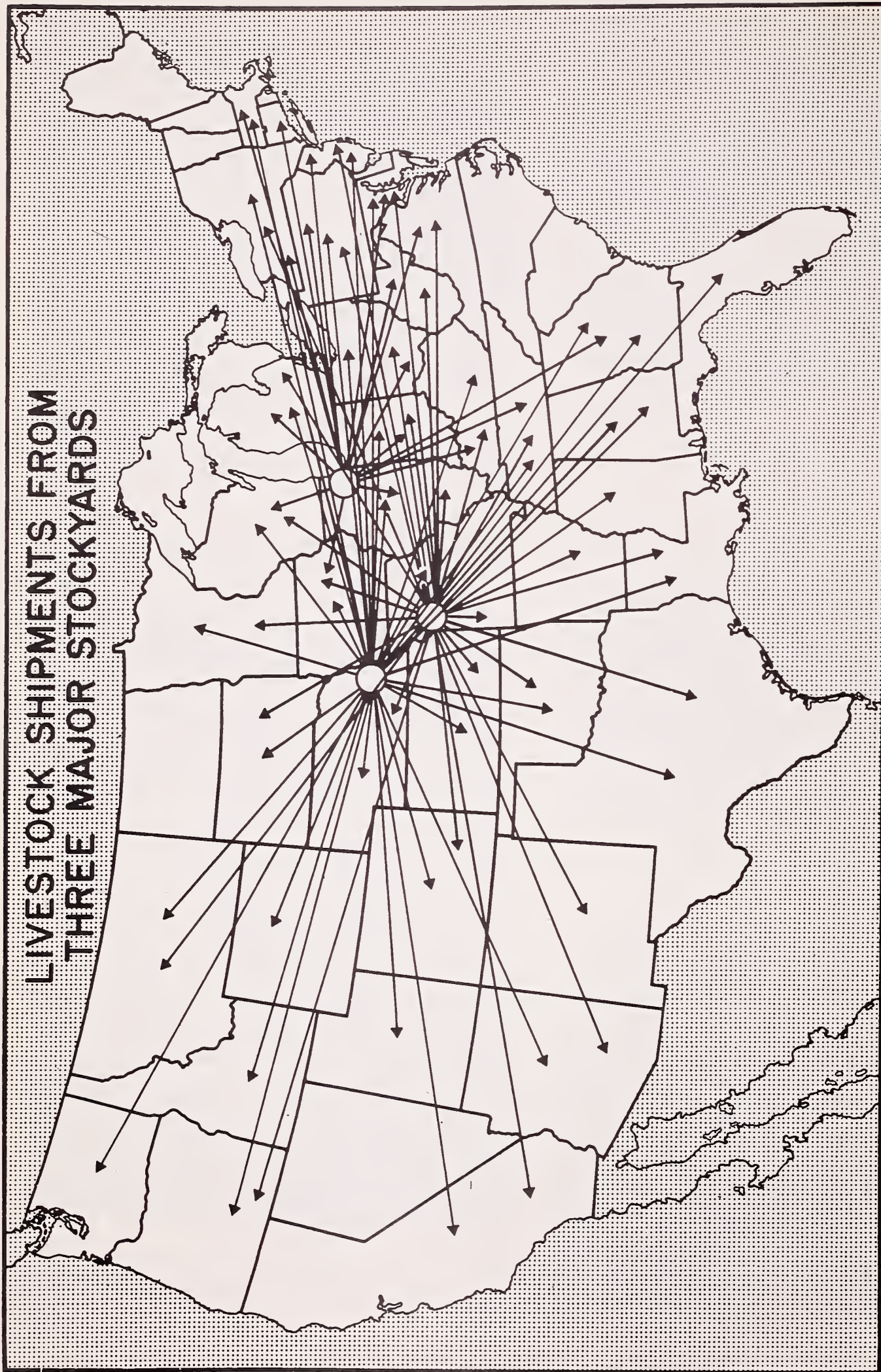


N-32735.--Adequate washing and disinfecting facilities for trucks are provided by stockyards that are operating under Federal inspection.



N-32669.--Outgoing shipments are reinspected, as a double check. The Federal inspector also checks whether applicable testing, vaccinating, or dipping requirements have been carried out, and provides the necessary health certificates.





BN-9197.--Federal health inspection is designed to move healthy livestock out of public stockyards without interruption. This chart shows a typical week's livestock shipments out of three major Public stockyards, Chicago, Ill., Kansas City, Mo., Omaha, Neb.







